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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 HA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /079 W
----------074609 221530Z /53
O 221449Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5134

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1733

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RO
SUBJECT: UN CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO

REFS: STATE 188247, STATE 203994

1. EMBOFF PRESENTED DIRECTOR OF UN AND DISARMAMENT SECTION OF MFA, STEFAN TODOROV, WITH COPY OF THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION AND MADE DEMARCHE AUG 21.

2. TODOROV RESPONDED THAT BULGARIA'S POSITION, BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF ANTI-COLONIALISM, WAS WELL-KNOWN AND WOULD NOT CHANGE. THE BULGARIAN OFFICIAL FOUND DISCUSSION OF THE PUERTO RICO ISSUE IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 APPROPRIATE ANB NOTED THE GOB'S SUPPORT FOR LAST YEAR'S RESOLUTION. HE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON ANY RESOLUTION THAT MIGHT BE PRESENTED THIS YEAR UNTIL HE HAD SEEN THE TEXT. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WHAT DIFFERENCE IN VIEWS OUR TWO COUNTRIES MIGHT HAVE AT THIS YEAR'S COMMITTEE SESSIONS WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH OUR IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. TODOROV DESCRIBED THE CALL FOR REFERENDUM AFTER THE 1980 ELECTIONS A NEW FACTOR FOR HIM AND ASKED IF UN OBSERVERS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO VIEW THE ELECTIONS AND THE STEPS LEADING UP TO THEM. HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED SUCH A
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REFERENDUM OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR RESOLVING THE ISSUE. ASKED BULGARIA'S POSITION ON THE LAST SUCH REFERENDUM, HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT CONSIDERED A FREE EXPRESSION OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S VIEWS. WHEN PRESSED, HE REFERRED TO BULGARIA'S VIEW AS BEING QUEOTE SHARED UNQUOTE (PRESUMABLY WITH OTHERS VOTING FOR PUERTO RICO RESOLUTIONS.
ASKED IF THE GOB WOULD ACCEPT THE

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RESULTS OF THE PROPOSED REFERENDUM IF IT WAS SATISFIED THAT
THE ISLANDERS HAD EXPRESSED THZMSELVES FREELY, HE ANSWERED
THAT THE GOB WOULD HAVE TO STUDY THE MATTER THEN, BUT THAT
IN PRINCIPLE, BULGARIA STOOD FOR SELF-DETERMINATION WHETHER
ACCOMPLISHED VIA ELECTIONS, A REFERENDUM, OR OTHER MEANS.
WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION AND,
IF A REFERENDUM IS HELD, HIS URGING THE CONGRESS TO SUPPORT
WHATEVER DECISION THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO REACH, EMBOFF
WAS ASKED WHAT THEMOOD OF CONGRESS WAS VIZ-A-VIZ A PUERTO
RICAN CHOICE FOR INDEPENDENCE, COMMONWEALTH, OR STATEHOOD.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: FOR CONTINUING DISCUSSION OF TOPIC,
IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS ON
UN OBSERVERS AND THE QUOTE MOOD OF CONGRESS UNQUOTE AS BEST
AS CAN BE DETERMINDED NOW.
GARTHOFF

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